

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

JUNE 6, 2022

Current Conditions

- January, February, and March 2022 were the driest on record dating back over 100 years, with just six inches of precipitation observed across the Sierra Nevada.
- California will enter the dry summer months with below-average reservoir storage and with the state's largest reservoir, Shasta Lake, at critically low levels. The Sierra snowpack is essentially gone, and runoff into the state's streams and reservoirs has largely peaked for the year.
- All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation. Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible.
- As of June 6, the state's voluntary household dry well reporting system received reports of 97 dry wells in the past 30 days. Seventeen dry wells were reported in Fresno County, and another fifteen in Tulare.

The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Public Health. For the latest on drought, please visit www.drought.ca.gov. For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit www.saveourwater.com.

Recent Events and State Actions

DWR offers support, resources for dry wells (June 6): As California continues to experience climate-driven severe drought conditions, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is providing tools and resources to help communities and domestic well owners prepare for potential well outages and other drought impacts.



State, federal water managers gear up for summer operations, challenges (June 2): DWR and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation are gearing up for the hot and dry summer months as the state experiences a third consecutive year of severe drought. The two agencies are coordinating closely on water project operations and actions to address expected low river flows and temperature challenges this summer. Highlights include:

- DWR finalized its decision earlier this year to deliver 5 percent of requested SWP supplies in 2022. DWR will also provide water for any unmet critical health and safety needs of the 29 water agencies that contract to receive SWP supplies.
- Most CVP agricultural water service contractors will receive a zero percent allocation from this water year (with Friant Division Class 1 at 15 percent) and municipal water supplies for communities at the minimum levels for health and safety needs only.
- Reclamation aims to conserve as much storage behind Shasta Dam as possible and will rely on Folsom Lake to help meet Delta water quality needs this summer.
- DWR will prioritize Lake Oroville releases to maintain Delta water quality, protect endangered species, and meet senior water right needs.
- DWR and Reclamation currently project that both systems have available water supply to maintain Delta water quality through the summer and will not seek renewal of a Temporary Urgency Change Order that since April has allowed for the flexibility to release less water into the Delta. That TUCP expires June 30.
- The Emergency drought salinity barrier in West False River in the Delta will remain until at least November 30 to help conserve storage and reduce the amount of saltwater intrusion into the Delta through the summer and fall.

Final grant guidelines for water projects (June 1): DWR released the final Guidelines and Proposal Solicitation Package for the Riverine Stewardship Program. The program will award up to \$15 million in competitive grants to implement projects that help reduce flood risk, increase water supply and enhance and restore fish populations and habitat.

Save Our Water at Sacramento County Fair (Memorial Day weekend): DWR was onsite at the 2022 Sacramento County Fair with Save Our Water, the statewide water conservation program asking all Californians to voluntarily conserve water for our future.



Recent Events and State Actions

CEQA suspensions granted under drought Executive Order (May 25 and 31): The Secretary for Natural Resources determined that a suspension of CEQA was appropriate under the Governor's March 28 Executive Order to facilitate a voluntary water-sharing agreement reached by stakeholders in the upper Russian River watershed. Under the agreement, water users volunteer to share water with one another with the goal of all water users who participate having water later into the dry season and delaying or avoiding curtailment. On May 25, the Secretary approved a request from the city of Healdsburg, and on May 31, he granted a similar request from the city of Ukiah. Related documents are available [here](#).

Workshop for counties on new drought planning requirements (June 2): DWR and the Water Board held the first of four workshops to inform county staff and solicit input on the development of a guidebook to support the preparation of County Drought Plans, which focus on water systems with fewer than 15 connections and domestic wells, as required under SB 552 (2021). During this first webinar, DWR and State Water Board will review the SB 552 requirements for counties and solicit input on needed tools and considerations that could help counties meet the requirements.

Curtailments adjustments (ongoing): As drought conditions persist, the State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where worsening conditions may threaten water supplies. Curtailments remain in effect in the [Delta watershed](#), two [sub-watersheds of the Delta](#), and in the [Shasta River watershed](#). Based on current conditions and available forecasts, curtailments in the [Russian River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through June 15 and curtailments in the [Scott River watershed](#) are temporarily suspended through June 10. Water Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change.



Tribal / Local Actions

- **Tribal governments:** Tribal emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tule River Indian Tribe, Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe.
- **Local government:** Local emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

Upcoming Decisions/Milestones

Save Our Water onsite at local county fairs: DWR will be onsite at the San Diego Country Fair from June 10-12 with Save Our Water Day on **June 11**; and will also be at the Alameda County Fair from June 17-19 with Save Our Water Day on **June 19**.

Save Water and Save Our Trees partnership with the Sac Republic USL soccer team: On **June 18** Sac Republic USL is unveiling a city of trees jersey and Save Our Water is the presenting sponsor. SOW messaging will be at the games on the video board, ticker and social media announcements for the rest of the season.

Key Data Points and Resources

- Daily Hydrological & Climate Information summary: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO>
- Statewide water conditions: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html
- Daily Reservoir Storage Summary: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>
- Water Year Forecast and Monthly Distribution: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=B120DIST>
- Monthly water supplier reports on water production and conservation: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html
- Latest groundwater conditions and information: <https://sgmatest.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://www.drought.ca.gov>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>